

ARIZONA JOURNAL-MINER

Estimated Gold Output of Yavapai County for 1895, \$3,000,000.

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AN OLD REGION YET A NEW ONE.

THE MINERAL BELT THAT TIME IS
UNRAVELLING FOR PEOPLE TO
SEEK AND FIND.

WHAT MAY TRUTHFULLY BE SAID
OF PRESCOTT AND THE MINES
AROUND IT.

It seems strange and unreasonable in this day of enlightenment and progress that man will persist in clinging tenaciously to that cherished in some old custom, and on the other hand follow so assiduously that which has faintly to trace it in that of only a bewildering tradition, as is noticeable in his eagerness to trot from one end of the globe to the other in search of the yellow metal. Yet they do so. Again, it would seem that men would eventually tire of a cause that has associated to it the hardships and privations of a life so familiar to all, and blessed only with the fascination that faces him step by step as he seeks to fathom the riches always to follow him. But they do not. Such is the history of mining. From the days of Niza, the old Spanish padre, who, as far back as 1600 led his small

worked over and over again, and strange as it may appear, they were the first to be abandoned because the extravagance of the early pioneers could only be satiated with that degree of wealth known but to Colonel Sellers and his "millions in it." From that day, or in 1865 when one of the first Arizona mines, located in Big Bug district, secured recognition by a government patent, up to the present time, nothing remarkable in general has transpired to heat this section to a boom, and as is unusually the case, later to react in curses, a phase of mining life so familiar to the west in its life of the past half century. The growth of the mining industry around Prescott, or the sudden advancement of the same to the proportions it now assumes as a gold producing region, is a very peculiar one, and one also which has attached to it that known in the agitation now epidemic in the west so viciously, as due solely and unreservedly to the fate of silver. Previous to the "gold bug" era, the "free" mines or the "concentrating" propositions were passed over, simply because surface indications or croppings were delusive, and the silver metal was favored because from the "grass roots" it went down, and was therefore given the standard in mining life of that day. From that era or up to that which people seem so distressed at, gold mining in Yavapai was of that order known familiarly as "few and far between." With the collapse of the white metal, however, the incredulous of that

forcibly impress the newness comes. When indisputable facts are mentioned as the geographical location this section gave to the probable investor and the lack of proper facilities in a past day to conveniently reach us or readily connect our mineral products with established centers blessed with reduction or other works to handle our goods, it is surprising to grasp the distant days gone, of less than a decade ago and note the changes daily coming to face us with the stern reality of the present. In 1887 the first iron horse was attracted, and with its advent came the first gold hunters from the outside. The beginning was really a magnificent one, as to the better of the day can be accredited the better of the deed, for later, in 1893, the present railroad, known as the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix, eager also to tap the mineral wonders along its route came. With it and the change which it has wrought, an undeniable progress to a community that welcomes it has followed its building and operation. From this brief retrospect of the prevailing conditions surrounding this city but a few years ago, and the antiquated methods the mining fraternity had to contend with in handling their products, the present echoes favorably back to the gloomy past. Who among the curious of to-day can go to the new and marvelous Chaparral, and leave it fear; to the old and sterling Bradshaw, and desert it without being fascinated; and to the rugged and forlorn Santa Maria, without facing

able to look into the bottom of the earth, and see its riches from surface indications, the one indisputable question comes suddenly and flagrantly to face the Hassayamper and the tenderfoot, so called, and that is, "sink on it." It is the medicine, so to speak, and the oldest patients to-day are the ones that verify it in a mining sense. The immense mines of Jerome "hung fire" for many years. The Little Jessie ground was worn out with a burro trail for a quarter of a century, the noble Congress laid distressingly silent for years, the Sheldon and other properties had petered out, the Crowned King was a delicate one, and soon and on, were the same doleful notes played on the old-time fiddle until it would seem the country was to be given back to Him who deemed it more of a curse to mankind than a benefit to His realm. The change which time, in its fleeting way, has wrought, is now presented to them like it was before, and is made only the more inviting by that which they must readily understand when they face it. When one has passed the greater portion of his existence among the scenes so familiar with mining around Prescott, and weighs its past in the same balance he would the present, who among the oldest of the old-timers will dare to pass over in this generation, that "formation" which he so vehemently condemned back in '84, and which some tenderfoot recently lit onto and made a "home stake" out of. The lesson in this regard

courtesy of F. A. Healy, the general freight and passenger agent of the above system, the following figures are given publicly as offering support to gold mining in this region, and encouragement to capital to handle the product at home:

TONNAGE:	
Six months ending Oct. 31, 1893	207
Six months ending April 30, 1894	357
Six months ending Oct. 31, 1894	349
Six months ending April 30, 1895	324
Total	627
Memo. year ending April 30, 1894	764
Memo. year ending April 30, 1895	5528
Increase	4764

In addition to the above, William Claypool, of the Prescott Sampling Works, states that the receipts of gold bearing ore in tonnage, at that point, so far in 1895, equals, if not exceeds, that of silver ore handled at any time in past years.

This showing is remarkable, not so much so on account of the increase in amount of ore handled during the last six months by the above company, but it shows the richness the same must bear to stand the expense of mining, and the greater expense to transport it to such centers as Kansas City, Denver or Pueblo. When Yavapai county can produce ore of the value the above must contain, why should not her only product be worked right at home without going to the above centers day after day on a mission simply of tribute? The question of reduction works for this section

genuine eagerness of men with limited capital to acquire ground to outlay their money on, certainly corroborates this view, and substantiates it to the extent the increase of ore shipments give. The progress in mining to follow the building of the above railroad, aside from the fact of the ore it has handled, has been simply unheard of, and since its advent, or through its channels our mineral resources are being daily grasped at. To-day no room for doubt exists for its future, and within the next few years one of the greatest revivals the country has ever seen in its mining life will be experienced in and around the Mountain City. The sole question that faces the present, as it will the future, is to conveniently and profitably handle the ore, and with its solution, the more rapid will mines go down and the greater will be their product.

It may not be improper to state here, in justification of the mineral output of this immediate section, the evidence that is furnished in the value of ore shipments like the above, that no credit is given Arizona for such, but on the other hand, centers like Omaha, Kansas City, Denver, Pueblo and El Paso, each swell the annual returns of their state, with that which comes to them directly from this section. It is abuse which must be tolerated, however, and seems to sting still deeper a country that is unfortunately throttled in its aims and in its hopes, because it cannot take care of its mineral product at home.



PARTIAL VIEW OF PRESCOTT, ARIZONA, LOOKING NORTHEAST. POPULATION 4,500.

band of ardent explorers on and through the identical hills and ravines which to-day may be seen from any point in Prescott to search for the seven cities of Cibola, and reap the riches of gold and silver which tradition said they treasured from the prophecy of Humboldt that the present century would see the minerals of that belt in which we of to-day are in the midst of startle the world—and on and down to that contained in something a little more in touch with human doings and individual ambition of a later day, by the entry of Weaver and his party in the early 60's to a section that still sacredly bears his name, and which has yielded fabulous sums since that era, the history of mining in Yavapai has been a fascinating and interesting one. It differs from that, however, which the 49er still cherishes and prates over in hackneyed tones of splendor; it bears none of the characteristic life and jobbery incidental to a Comstock; the "boom" and rush of a Leadville or a Tombstone here has not been known, and "Busted Bodie" has not as yet been applied to this section. While to the keen and wary, the principles contained in a mushroom life which many of that ilk seem to prosper and thrive on more successfully than they do by "staying in the game," are unknown and have not as yet seized this time, the growth of this section as a mineral producer has been sure and steady on the other hand. Perhaps it has been too slow for that matter, but the era which the worn out Hassayamper cherished in life to see and grasped at as he passed over the divide, is dawning. The oldest mines, those which carry one back in memory to the flush and good old days when nuggets were said to blossom on the plaza, and fat government contracts were to be had for their asking, are being

day who believed for the time that the bottom had fallen out of the country, every district that had a trace of gold in it was again the scene of renewed activity, slow and discouraging at first, but later revolving itself into a bonified business proposition. The cause of the white metal, however, is still sacredly cherished in devotion by the mining element here as it is elsewhere, and with its just triumph which is sure to come in a day measured by justice to all men, the grandeur of the scene can but faintly be comprehended by that which is to be seen to-day around us. Whatever may be said of Prescott to-day as it faces modern civilization with a fair degree of advancement and progress, it is the same Prescott that existed back in the days when a burro trail crossed the plaza, because in that day it was a mining camp, kept alive by those who recognized it as a center, and to this time, it still enjoys and fosters the same belief. Mining has beckoned to her door the railroad, the capitalist, the business man, the farmer, the home seeker, and others, and to them all she gives and never takes in return. No city ever existed under the identical conditions which until a few years ago seemingly hovered over the mountain town, hanging in the balance as it were, its fate. If wiped out in a night and forsaken in a day, the scene could only have been equalled by the tales told over and over again when men "packed up their duds in a champagne basket" and left White Pine for once and for ever. The stability of the of the town which is partially portrayed on this page, is not as surprising as some are led to believe after being informed of the past. Back of her the mines are here, and without further ado or introduction, they are speaking in tones which still attract the oldest timer and

its privations in cheer. These districts, and the ones tributary to them, cover, in their mineral sphere, a catacomb of treasure known, it would seem, only to some past age, and guarded, as it were, by the mysticism which hovers over and around them. No section of the mineral region of the union can face the area surrounding Prescott, in character and volume, nor, for that matter, can its wealth be compared. To the disputations can but one answer be given, however, and that is simply that the pursuit, in its infancy, the greatness of which has as yet been cherished by few. Very favorable features surrounding Prescott in the pursuit of mining, may be mentioned the abundance of wood in nearly every district and the ready supply of water that can be developed at a nominal cost, wherein sufficient quantities are had for milling or other reduction purposes. The timber question here is solved, also, and is probably one of the most important, for to the absence of this one article, must a great and probably a necessary expense, attach itself. The mildness of the climate also is a desirable element, the loss of time through inclement weather never being experienced. Outside capital, as yet, has done but little to forward this section, but where such has come and legitimately operated, the present stride and activity which heralds others to come and do likewise, is justly reaping its reward. The average district has been a poor man's proposition from the grass roots, and not until recently has it been deemed advisable or necessary to release him from it, or, for that matter, determine its extent or exact its riches. In doing this, or successfully solving a problem that baffles in its intricacies the shrewdest of men who claim to be

may be a costly one to the men who still insist on the folly of following is, but it is true, nevertheless, and no fairer argument can be presented than by stating that the mines—the ones that had their first location plaster pasted on the "center" are the ones to-day which are the standbys and building up a second Denver. Such, in brief, is the history of mining around Prescott, and if the old are to be judged by the new, and there is no reason why they should not, what better field can capital select than Prescott and the mines around it.

"A LONG FELT WANT."

SOME ASTONISHING FACTS AND FIGURES TO PROVE IT.

AND STRAWS WHICH SHOW THE CURRENT IN THE MINERAL ZONE.

To state with any degree of accuracy the value of precious metals produced in this section of Arizona, previous to the advent of the railroad, is simply out of the question, as no records of shipments have been kept to cover that period. Since that era, however, or since the completion of the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix Railroad to this city and also the capital, an exact idea can be had of the property attending mining interests hereabouts, and the diligence of miners, to a certain extent this road furnishes in an uncontrovertible way, that is simply startling, when considered and looked into, in addition also to the number of mills that are daily in operation, but inadequate, nevertheless, to successfully handle ore. Through the

seems the more vital problem to us at the present, than the existence of the mines themselves, from the fact the above figures convey. The lack of common reduction works, necessitates the shipping of the above character of ores from this city regularly, and until capital is enterprising enough to recognize the inducements open in this field, the more will it grow in volume, and the less also will our vast resources be known. The situation of Prescott is unlike that of Denver, San Francisco, Omaha, New York, Chicago, or the other centers that bid for the ore of every section. Here we have the mines within a day's reach by even the slowest pack train method, and in addition to that, thousands of tons of ore that will not bear the expense of thousands miles of transportation and other charges, which go with its handling and reduction, necessarily, will here find a cheaper and also a more willing outlet. Labor and fuel are equally as cheap here as in the above cities, while the cost of desirable locations, etc., is but nominal. Probably the prettiest feature of Prescott's plea for reduction works, lays in its central location, made so since January last by the completion of the north and south road through Arizona. This has brought us to the very door of every mining community in the Territory, and to reach us the farthest mine could here find an outlet for its product that competition could not face otherwise. No more desirable location is open for the inauguration at once of good reduction works, that the central location we pride ourselves on, and also in a field that is yet untouched by a similar enterprise. The possibilities of the mineral country around us in a radius of but fifty miles, are only in their virgin state, and the progress of development, backed also with a

DEPOSITS OF PRECIOUS STONES.

IN BEAUTY AND DURABILITY THEY
ARE INCOMPARABLE.

A PROMINENT FEATURE OF OUR HIDDEN WEALTH.

Diverting for the time from the sentiment that gives this issue somewhat of a sameness, we ask the reader to go to new and other fields in his consideration of our earthly treasures, and glance for a moment at our resources in a kindred pursuit. In doing so one must not infer that the diamond excitement of '72 is to be sprung on him again, nor for that matter, is his fancy to be tickled by the precious "pearl of Pekin" incidents. Deeper, to the tireless gold-hunter than to any other cause, the accidental uncovering of deposits of stone and onyx, has come to face this section, and through it the intelligence of mankind has been enlightened and the country made more varied in the line of its natural resources. In the character of building and ornamental stone none show their magnificence more freely, and none have attracted greater admiration here, as elsewhere, than can be said of

ARIZONA COUNTY.
One of the richest and probably as well as the most remarkable geological formations in the world is that constituting the Arizona Onyx Quarries, about twenty-five miles southeast of Prescott, Arizona. Originally the crater of a volcano, the waters of a mighty river, heavily charged with carbonate of lime, have poured over an area of nearly two hundred acres, and

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